

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 066679  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:LBRECKON:KS

APPROVED BY EUR:JSHINN

PM:DGOMPERT

S/S-O:LRFLEISCHER

-----125098 152047Z /62

O 151942Z MAR 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 066679

NODIS

GENEVA FOR USSALTTWO

FOL RPT BONN 04658 ACTION SECSTATE 14 MAR 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T BONN 04658

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO LONDON, PARIS, USNATO  
AND GENEVA (USSALTTWO)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM NATO SALT GW

SUBJECT: FRG POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION

REFS: (A) BONN 4464; (B) STATE 61784; (C) STATE 42975

1. STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL INFORMED THE CHARGE THIS  
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EVENING (MARCH 14) THAT THE FRG WAS NOW PREPARED TO  
ACQUIESCE IN THE TABLING OF THE US FALLBACK POSITION  
ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION WHENEVER THE US REGARDED IT  
NECESSARY TO DO SO.

2. VAN WELL, WHO ASKED THE CHARGE TO COME TO THE  
FOREIGN OFFICE TO BE BRIEFED ON TODAY'S FEDERAL SECURITY

COUNCIL (FSC) DISCUSSIONS OF ERW (SEPTELS) AND SALT, SAID THERE HAD BEEN A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION ISSUE AND THE PROPOSED INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT WHICH THE US WOULD GIVE TO THE NAC AND THE CONGRESS. WHILE IT WAS ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE DISCUSSIONS OF THE EXACT TEXT OF THE INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT, THE FRG WELCOMED THE US APPROACH AND FOUND THE GENERAL TENOR OF THE STATEMENT QUITE SATISFACTORY.

3. VAN WELL STATED THAT THE FRG HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE US POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. IT STILL CONSIDERED IT UNDESIRABLE TO STATE THAT WE REALLY INTEND TO FULFILL THE TREATY, AND THE GERMANS KNEW THE SOVIETS WOULD USE THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION CLAUSE AS A LEVER. THE FRG THUS STILL MAINTAINED ITS CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE STATE OF CONSULTATIONS REACHED, THE FRG WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE US PROCEEDING WITH THE FALLBACK.

4. VAN WELL SAID THE FSC HAD ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE GRAY AREAS QUESTION AND PROPOSED US UNILATERAL STATEMENT THAT "ANY FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON US SYSTEMS PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED FOR THEATER MISSIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE LIMITATIONS ON SOVIET THEATER SYSTEMS" (PARA 6.B, REF C). THE FRG PLANNED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE US AT THE WORKING  
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LEVEL, IN ORDER TO SEEK A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "THEATER SYSTEMS." THE TERMS "FBS" AND "NON-CENTRAL SYSTEMS" WERE FAMILIAR, BUT "THEATER SYSTEMS" WAS NEW TO THE FSC.  
MEEHAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE066679  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LBRECKON:KS  
**Enclosure:** REPEATING 78 BONN 4658  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 BONN 4464, 78 STATE 61784, 78 STATE 42975  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**To:** NATO POSTS GENEVA MULTIPLE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014